

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** December 8, 2004

**TO:** Commission on EMS

**FROM:** Richard Watson  
Interim Director

**PREPARED BY:** Jeffrey Rubin  
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**SUBJECT:** Update on Medical Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness Activities

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(s):**

Receive Information on Disaster Medical Services Division Medical Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness issues.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the EMS Authority.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Homeland Security Program
2. HRSA Hospital Bioterrorism Grant Program
3. Medical Terrorism Initiatives
4. Disaster Medical Exercises and Training

1. Homeland Security Program

The EMS Authority participates with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and the State Military Department in the Federal Department of Homeland Security's Program for terrorism preparedness and response. The State Military Department provides financial and consultative support to the EMS Authority:

- \$250,000 to implement a terrorism awareness training evaluation project as part of the State Emergency Response Training Advisory Committee (ERTAC). The project will include the establishment of response training guidelines for EMS first responders. A staff person has been hired, additional staff within the EMS Authority have been redirected and an education consultant will be engaged. It is anticipated the guidelines will be presented to the EMS Commission in the middle of next year.
- Consultant expertise to assist in 1) Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations (COG/COOP) training and exercises and 2) the Statewide Medical/Health Exercise (see below).

Additionally, the EMS Authority is now part of the newly restructured State Terrorism Threat Assessment Committee (STAC) chaired by the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and meets bi-weekly with their Chief Deputy Director.

## 2. HRSA Hospital Bioterrorism Grant Program

The EMS Authority is implementing Year 2 of the HRSA Hospital Bioterrorism Grant Program. All staff have been hired and the following projects are underway:

- Updating and revising the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) to incorporate Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Development of Clinic ICS
- Development of Mass Casualty Guidelines
- Development of Field Treatment-Site Guidelines and training program
- Continued development and refinement of Ambulance Strike Team Guidelines
- **ESAR-VHP** (Emergency System for Advanced Registration-Volunteer Health Personnel). Develop Disaster Medical Personnel Guidelines to address the identification and credentialing of volunteers; liability and reciprocity issues; investigation of statewide registries and integration of the Medical Reserve Corps Program.
- Further integration of California Poison Control Centers, trauma centers and the EMS-Children Program into the statewide disaster medical response system.

## 3. Medical Terrorism Initiatives

### Ambulance Strike Team

The AST Committee, chaired by EMSA Disaster Staff, continues to make progress in readying this disaster response capability throughout California. The pilot offering of the AST Leadership Courses were held in November, 2004. The courses will be evaluated and the program finalized and presented to the FIRESCOPE organization. A comprehensive AST plan and accompanying deployment and logistic support procedures will be developed in the next few months.

### CHEMPACK

The EMSA/DHS jointly funded RDMHS staff in each of the six mutual aid regions are deeply engaged in the CDC CHEMPACK program. This California Department of Health Services administered program will provide nerve agent antidotes for victims of a chemical terrorist attack or an accidental hazardous materials release. Caches of the antidotes will be placed with California hospitals and EMS providers.

### Hospital and Health Systems Disaster Interest Group

The EMS Authority lead Hospital and Health Systems Disaster Interest Group has completed work on revised hazardous materials treatment protocols for hospitals. The Group is now focused on the development of radiation treatment protocols. New hospital systems continue to join the committee.

#### 4. Disaster Medical Exercises and Training

##### Statewide Disaster Medical and Health Exercise-November 2004

The EMS Authority will conduct the annual Statewide Disaster Medical and Health Exercise in November 2004. This sixth annual event will involve state agencies, hospitals, the majority of the counties, many local EMS providers and amateur radio services. The focus of the event will be a simulated bioterrorism attack.

##### Statewide Disaster Medical and Health Conferences-September and October, 2004

Each year, prior to the Statewide Disaster Medical and Health Exercise, the EMS Authority in concert with governmental agencies and health care industry partners presents the Statewide Disaster Medical and Health Conferences. This year's conferences focused on response to mass casualties-addressing the surge. Approximately 900 participants attended the three separate venues in Oakland, Commerce and Temecula. An additional 530 participants were in attendance at two separate offerings of the EMSA Disaster Medical Boot Camp held the day before the Oakland and Commerce conferences. The Boot Camps provided an intensive overview of the state disaster medical and health response system and help prepare local government staff for their response roles in an emergency.

##### Rough and Ready Disaster Medical Assistance Team Field Exercise-January, 2005

The EMS Authority's Annual Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) field deployment will be January, 2005 at Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center in Southern California. The California Air National Guard will host the event expected to involve over 400 personnel. All six California DMAT general medical teams will be represented along with the state's mental health team, elements of the Army and Air National Guard, the EMS Authority's Management Support Team and Orange County EMS providers. The event will mark the first deployment of the state's newly created Ambulance Strike Team program.